



WalkBoston

March 8, 2011

Joint Committee on Transportation
Thomas McGee, Senate Chair
William Straus, House Chair
State House, Room 134
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Chapter 90 transportation bond bill (H 1854)

Dear Chairman McGee and Chairman Straus:

WalkBoston writes in support of the proposed increase in Chapter 90 funding to \$200 million. In light of the poor condition of many of the Commonwealth's local roads, sidewalks, bridges and other transportation infrastructure this funding is greatly needed.

We also explicitly encourage cities and towns to pursue Chapter 90 projects that increase investments in pedestrians, bicycles, and public transportation. We believe that a portion of Chapter 90 funding might be appropriately set aside for cities and towns that incorporate complete streets philosophies to expand transportation choices; encourage healthy and active living; reduce traffic congestion and fossil fuel use; and provide safe, convenient and comfortable routes for walking, bicycling, and public transportation.

Complete streets infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, street and sidewalk lighting; sidewalks and pedestrian safety improvements such as median refuges or crosswalk improvements; improvements that provide ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant accessibility; transit accommodations including improved pedestrian access to transit stops and bus shelters; bicycle accommodations including bicycle storage, bicycle parking, bicycle routes, shared-use lanes, wide travel lanes or bike lanes as appropriate; street trees, boulevard landscaping, street furniture and adequate drainage facilities; and reduction in the number of travel lanes or removal of on-street parking.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with our input to this important public safety and economic development bill. Please let me know if WalkBoston can provide any further information during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Wendy Landman
Executive Director